



General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church

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INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP CALLS ON US POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TO ADDRESS CONSEQUENCES OF SETTLEMENT EXPANSION *A Briefing on the Village of Wadi Foquin*

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

12 Noon to 2 p.m.

B338 –Rayburn House Office Building

Palestinian acts of violence against Israeli Jews dominated news coverage from Israel and the occupied territories in late 2015, but Palestinians living there—and an increasing number of Americans—are calling on the US to recognize that the Israeli military control of every aspect of Palestinian life is the root source of the violence. The small West Bank village of Wadi Foquin offers a case in point: In the past year and a half, in violation of the 4th Geneva Conventions and International Humanitarian Law, the Israeli government has annexed 400 acres of its land, bulldozed 1,300 fruit trees on privately owned and tended farmland, and issued stop-work orders on a United Methodist-funded soccer field under construction for village children and youth. The nearby government-supported, Jewish-only settlement of Betar Illit discharges raw sewage onto village fields, making them unsuitable for agricultural use; and Israeli Defense Force soldiers and armed settlers from Betar Illit routinely make incursions into Wadi Foquin to harass and intimidate residents.

Christians in the US have worked with this Palestinian Muslim village for seven years through a partnership initiated by a United Methodist congregation. The partnership supports community development projects that provide hope for families seeking a future for their children and youth. Panelists for this briefing will provide information on the challenges threatening the existence of Wadi Foquin, and will suggest how US policy can play a constructive role in addressing these issues.

Panelists

- **Ahmad Sokar, Mayor of Wadi Foquin**
- **Kifah Manasra, Phd. Al Estiklal University**
- **Shukri Radaydeh, Director Bethlehem Local Governorate**
- **Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary, United Methodist Church
General Board of Church and Society**

Sponsored by:

Friends of Wadi Foquin

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Faith Forum on Middle East Policy

US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

Churches for Middle East Peace

Light lunch will be provided: RSVP to Rev Michael Yoshii at michaelyoshii1@gmail.com